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16 July 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Contact with AEPRIMER-1 on 11-12 July 1957

1. Contact was made with Subject by [] and the undersigned in the Roger Smith Hotel at 1200 hours on 11 July 1957. A meeting was conducted during luncheon at the Yentching Palace Restaurant on Connecticut and Porter Streets.

2. [] briefed Subject generally about his visit with Mr. Skabiej in Australia and asked Subject whether Mr. Skabiej had sent the letter with the information requested on the Byelorussian emigration in Australia. Subject stated he was in receipt of such letter and said he would turn it over to us in his hotel room where he left it. He felt that the information was too general and said he was working on a letter requesting more specific details.

3. The undersigned gave Subject \$166.36 for which he signed a receipt. This amount represented expenses incurred during official travel performed by Subject during 29 June - 5 July. The amount of expenses submitted totalled \$174.06, but \$7.70 paid by Subject for travel insurance was deducted as not payable by SR/DOB/Finance.

4. Subject stated he had a number of matters to discuss before his return to New York. However, since he had planned to meet with someone in the State Department and wanted time to arrange for the meeting, it was decided to meet with Subject in his hotel room later in the afternoon to complete discussions. The meeting was terminated approximately 1320 hours. Subject departed in a taxi for the Roger Smith and [] and the undersigned returned to the office.

5. At approximately 1430 the same afternoon, [] and the undersigned again met with Subject in his hotel room. Subject appeared rather upset and throughout the entire meeting seemed to be under a strain. He stated there were a number of specific questions he had regarding Byelorussian AEREADY candidates and the AECAMBISTA-Agency relationship, insofar as his activities are concerned. It was the undersigned's opinion that Subject may have been acting under directions from AECAMBISTA-4 to obtain specific statements as to Agency commitments with regard to AECAMBISTA-1. The undersigned's opinion was based on the fact that although Subject stated he had questions in his own mind, he kept fumbling around with the papers in his briefcase and reading the questions from notes made on various sheets of paper. This fumbling was rather surprising, as Subject on previous meetings has given the impression of being very neat, composed and methodical.

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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a. Subject asked about what "personal protection" would be given him or a candidate in the event an AEREADY candidate in training talked out of turn, perhaps while under the influence of liquor, and inadvertently exposed the activity.

Answer by ☐ There could be no guarantee of "personal protection". The Secrecy Agreement makes the candidate personally liable under the espionage laws and each candidate would be treated accordingly.

b. What protection would be given AECAMBISTA-1 and its members against accusations made by the Soviets and anti-AECAMBISTA-1 factions regarding AECAMBISTA-1 activities on behalf of the Americans which are detrimental to Byelorussians.

Answer by ☐ If AECAMBISTA-1 has any influence and reputation among the Byelorussians, it certainly should be able to make logical refutations of such statements on its own.

c. The BELARUSKI GOLOS, June 1957 issue, a Canadian newspaper edited by Chmara, accused AECAMBISTA-1 of terrorizing the people who had made false statements in their emigration forms, and accused the organization of espionage activities. Subject wanted to know what help would be offered to prevent disgracing the name of AECAMBISTA-1.

Answer by ☐ The AECAMBISTA-1 newspaper in Munich should be able to print a denial of such statements. If the followers of AECAMBISTA-1 have any faith in the organization then there should be no problem in convincing them that the statements made in the GOLOS are just so much more Soviet propaganda. The Agency could not protect the "name" of the AECAMBISTA organization without revealing connections with the organization.

6. Subject turned over to ☐ the information regarding the Byelorussian emigration in Australia received from Mr. Skabiej. The information is written in Byelorussian. Subject gave ☐ a general verbal translation. A copy of the original will be filed with this report after it has been translated by the undersigned.

7. During the course of the afternoon meeting, Subject received a telephone call from someone in the State Department and made arrangements to meet with the man on Friday at 1500 hours. The undersigned told Subject he could not possibly keep the engagement because he would not be free from the assessment schedule until about 1600 hours or later and suggested that Subject telephone back and change the appointment. Subject telephoned back and the appointment was changed to 1630 on Thursday. Therefore, the meeting with Subject was terminated and arrangements made for the undersigned to meet

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in his room on Friday morning at approximately 1000 hours, [] to arrive sometime later, as soon as he was free from another engagement.

8. On Friday, 12 July, the undersigned met Subject in his hotel room at 1010 hours. The first business discussed was the package program. Subject was told that the names of addressees and addressors submitted by him had been checked and that he could start making up the parcels for mailing. Subject came prepared to discuss this program and brought along a statement showing detailed costs of a personal package he had mailed to his father. He told the undersigned that approximately \$100-\$125.00 would be needed to assemble one parcel (which is similar to the original estimate made by the AECASSOWARIES for their parcels). It was decided that a maximum of 2 packages would be mailed to any one individual in one year. This will allow time for acknowledgement of the packages and exchange of correspondence. Subject wanted to know what to discuss in the correspondence with reference to these parcels. The undersigned told him that the letters were to contain only family and friendly conversation and that nothing else is to be discussed in them unless specific instructions are received from the undersigned or M. Romankiw. The undersigned asked Subject to tell her exactly what he had told the individuals whose names were to be used as addressors. Subject stated that the individuals chosen were old and trusted personal friends and trusted AECAMBISTA-1 adherents. They were told by him that the contents of the parcels would be paid for by the AECAMBISTA organization as they were being sent with future interests in mind. They also were told that revelation of this arrangement would bring serious consequences to both the individual and AECAMBISTA-1. Subject is going to start with 2 parcels. The undersigned promised to deliver about \$300.00 to him in a week or 10 days, as Subject needs the money before he can start.

9. [] arrived at 1045 hours. Subject expressed concern regarding the salary that would be paid to him. It was his understanding that he was to receive about \$200.00 per month and stated that this money was not to be used by him personally but was to be turned over to AECAMBISTA-1. The undersigned told him that although \$200.00 had been mentioned in the original discussions between him and [] that the finance division would probably approve only \$150.00 as a starting salary. He appeared slightly embarrassed and asked why he would be allowed only \$150.00 when AECAMBISTA-1 had received so much more. It was explained to him that it was considered appropriate to pay the higher salary to AECAMBISTA-1 because of his position. Subject agreed to this and stated he would accept whatever it was agreed to pay him. Subject wanted to know how his salary would be accounted for on the books and whether he would have to pay income tax on the amount received. He felt the money should be shown as received by AECAMBISTA-1 and not by him. Subject stated that last year his income, together with that of his wife, came to a total of approximately \$9,000 and that this year it probably would amount to \$10,000. He was concerned about having to pay a high tax.

[] explained that, so far as we were concerned, the money was being

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paid to him for his personal services and if he wished to turn it over to AECAMBISTA-1 he was free to do so. However, the Agency could not pay his salary to the organization, because the Agency then would be accused of supporting the organization. Subject then stated that he personally did not care whether or not he was paid for his services, that he is working for patriotic reasons. However, AECAMBISTA-1 was in need of money in order to continue its activities and, therefore, it was important that he get the money to turn over to the organization. He then stated that perhaps if the salary were increased by about \$50.00 the difference would take care of the higher income tax he would have to pay. [] stated he would check to see what arrangements could be made. Subject was told that the finance department would be consulted and he would be advised how to report his salary on his statement of earnings.

10. Subject asked to be told what was contained in the contract which AERREADY candidates are asked to sign. [] told him that the contract is signed in his presence, that the contract states the candidate will be sent only to the area of his birth in time of an emergency, and that the candidate signs a Secrecy Agreement promising not to disclose any information about the training activities. [] told Subject that the candidates are trained in technical aspects only, that political aspects would be covered at the time of an emergency. Subject wanted to know whether any member of the AECAMBISTA-1 organization would have opportunity to talk to the Byelorussian candidates to brief them on political aspects before they are sent anyplace in event of an emergency. [] stated this would be permissible, but that the individual would have to be given a clearance before he would be permitted to talk to the candidates as a group.

11. Subject requested that ZUKOWSKI, Joseph be dropped from further consideration for candidacy because he has been drinking very heavily lately and that his antagonistic personality would cause other candidates to dislike him. Subject submitted the names of 2 additional candidates for the AERREADY program; i.e., BURZ, Aleksander and JANOWICZ, Bill, which names were turned in to A&R on 12 July.

12. Subject was asked to elaborate on the letter he spoke of regarding his "plan". He told about the letter received by a friend of his in the Argentine from his brother in Poland (hereinafter Mr. X) who is an official in the Polish Government. Mr. X states that he wishes to visit with his brother in Argentina but he does not have the money to pay for the trip and has asked his brother to help him. The man in Argentina is not in a financial position to pay for his brother's visit and had written a letter to Subject telling about the wishes of his brother and requesting financial aid. The letter outlines the benefits to be derived from Mr. X's visit. Mr. X, because of his position (not stated) is free to travel about in the Soviet Union. Last year he traveled to Minsk and Moscow and other points, and even arranged to bring his mother and father from Byelorussia into Poland where they now reside. The letter states that much information could be obtained from Mr. X because of his travels and his extensive contacts in Byelorussia. It is even suggested that if the brother does not wish or cannot finance

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Mr. X's trip, that he came to Poland to visit Mr. X. The entire contents of the letter, as read and translated by Subject, seemed to cover all the general points of a project outline. Subject was not questioned why, if Mr. X is in such a high position, he does not have the money to pay for his own trip. Subject was asked to make a translation of the letter and to submit the original so that a copy could be made of it and returned to him. He promised to have the translation ready for the undersigned at the next meeting and said he would be glad to let us have the original for photographing purposes. He was told the letter would be brought to the appropriate department for pursuing as they deemed appropriate.

13. Subject was more like himself during the Friday morning meeting. He seemed relaxed and composed. He stated that he hoped he had been considered cooperative during the assessment. [] had arrangements to meet with Subject in his hotel room at 1300. Therefore, the meeting was terminated at 1130 hours. No date was set for the next contact. Subject was told that if he wished to see the undersigned or [] after the completion of his assessment that afternoon, he could send word via []. Subject said he enjoyed his stay in Washington and he was glad that the undersigned was able to obtain air reservations for him to return to New York Friday evening, since he wanted to visit with Mr. A. Adamovich who was departing for Europe at noon on Saturday in connection with American Committee activities. The information about Mr. Adamovich's departure for Europe was passed to SR/CE by the undersigned on 15 July 1957.

Distribution

Orig. - Subject's file
1 - Contacts file

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